

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4814

INFO DIA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 7469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, BL

SUBJ: LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LA PAZ 7427, LA PAZ 7429

1. LABOR AND STUDENT UNREST IN COCHABAMBA WERE SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT A PERSONAL VISIT FROM THE MINISTER OF LABOR ON NOVEMBER 13. THE MINISTER ASSURED WORKERS THAT THE RECENTLY PROMULGATED CONTROLS OVER LABOR WERE TEMPORARY MEASURES AIMED SOLELY AT PREVENTING THE POLITICAL PARTIES FROM EXPLOITING THE UNIONS DURING THIS PERIOD OF NATIONAL TRANSITION. THE MINISTER PROMISED THAT UNION RIGHTS WOULD BE RESTORED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THE PRESS REPORTED ON NOVEMBER 14 THAT THROUGH THE MINISTER'S EFFORTS WORKERS AND STUDENTS BEGAN TO RETURN TO THEIR DUTIES. HOWEVER, RELIABLE SOURCES REPORT THAT AS OF THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 14 UNREST IN COCHABAMBA CONTINUED UNABATED AND THAT TROOPS WERE PATROLLING THE STREETS.

2. LEADERS OF THE MINE WORKERS FEDERATION WHO REFUSED PUBLICLY TO SERVE AS "LABOR COORDINATORS" (SEE LA PAZ 7427) ARE STILL AT LIBERTY. ON THE OTHER HAND, 13 LEADERS OF THE STRIKING MINES AT SIGLO XX AND

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CATAVI HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. MINERS CONTINUE STRIKING AT A NUMBER OF

COMIBOL MINES, BUT SOME OBSERVERS INDICATE THAT THE MOMENTUM OF THE STRIKE MOVEMENT IS FALTERING

3. AS OF THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 13, ONLY 3 OF A TOTAL OF 71 LABOR COORDINATORS NAMES BY THE GOB HAD BEEN SWORN IN. THE RELUCTANCE OF FORMER UNION LEADERS TO SERVE AS COORDINATORS IS SHOWING, BUT ONLY THE LEADERS OF THE MINE WORKERS FEDERATION AND ONE FACTORY WORKERLEADER

HAVE PUBLICLY DECLINED TO SERVE.
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Message Attributes

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